

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

[0055] In the description below, the horizontal direction which connects the ~~center of the~~ load-lock chambers 11L, 11R and the ~~center of the~~ intermediate chamber 7 is referred to as the first direction. ~~and the~~ The carry system, in addition to ~~carry~~ carrying in the first direction in the intermediate chamber 7, is able to carry the substrate 9 in a second direction which constitutes the horizontal direction perpendicular to the first direction. A description of this point is given below with reference to FIG. 3 and FIG. 4. FIG. 3 is a front-surface schematic view showing the configuration of the carry system in the intermediate chamber 7 shown in FIG. 1, and FIG. 4 is a perspective schematic view of the horizontal movement mechanism provided within the intermediate chamber 7 shown in FIG. 1.